

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-9 are pending. By this Supplemental Amendment, claims 1 and 5 are amended.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Mullins in the March 1, 2005 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Akemakou (U.S. Patent No. 6,093,992). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In particular, Akemakou does not disclose or suggest magnetic circuit means includes a cylindrical portion around which an inductor rotor is disposed and a base portion around which a field coil is wound and the cylindrical portion and the base portion are contiguous, as recited in independent claim 1.

Akemakou instead discloses at Figs. 3 and 4, and at col. 4, lines 38-42 that a rotor 205 rotates between an outer stator 201 and an inner stator 211. The inner stator 211 includes a stack of laminations, and has along its inner periphery, a succession of slots 213 which receive an armature winding 214. Nowhere does Akemakou disclose or suggest the above noted features of claim 1.

Therefore, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2 and 4 depend on independent claim 1, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well as for the other features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, nowhere does Akemakou disclose or suggest magnetic circuit means having a first portion disposed opposite a second peripheral surface of an inductor rotor via a

second air gap and a second portion disposed between the first portion and the stator core around which a field coil is wound and the first portion and the second portion are contiguous, as recited in independent claim 5.

Therefore, independent claim 5 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 6-9 depend on independent claim 5, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well as for the other features they recite.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-2 and 4-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: March 21, 2005

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